

Earlier-Than-Expected Temik Termination Leaves Growers Scrambling

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

Cotton growers who were hoping to rely on Temik to fight nematodes and insects at least until 2014 are scrambling for alternatives after production was halted early, said Scott Monfort, extension plant pathologist for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.

Bayer CropScience announced March 18 it would not restart production of methyl isocyanate, a key ingredient in Temik.

Before deciding on a treatment, it's important for growers to know the severity of their nematode problem.

"There are a few options for nematode control in cotton," Monfort said "If you have Temik on hand, use it.

"In addition, three seed treatment packages are available with a nematicidal component: Avicta Complete Pak®, Aeris®, and Poncho-Votivo®," he said. "All three can help when nematode pressure is relatively low."

According to Terry Kirkpatrick, professor and extension nematologist for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, none of the options would provide satisfactory control where nematode pressure is high.

Vydate C-LV® may provide supplemental

nematode suppression as a post-planting foliar application shortly before pinhead square where pressure is moderate to high, he said.

"And at the extreme are the pre-plant soil fumigants Telone II and K-Pam," Kirkpatrick said. "These are excellent nematicides, but they are expensive and phytotoxic and need to be applied well ahead of planting. They also need to be injected into the row with specialized equipment."

Another option for severe infestations: rotate to another crop.

Producers need to approach management of nematodes like they are doing for insect and weed control – scouting for problems in the field.

"The only catch is that nematodes are invisible so the scouting has to be done with a soil probe and bucket in the fall in preparation for next year's crop," Monfort said.

There are two fact sheets available online: "Management of Economically Important Nematodes in Arkansas Cotton," FSA7567, www.uaex.edu/Other_Areas/publications/PDF/FSA-7567.pdf, or "Crop Rotation for Management of Nematodes in Cotton and Soybean," FSA7550, www.uaex.edu/Other_Areas/publications/PDF/FSA-7550.pdf. Δ



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